

3.13 Cultural Resources

Review of EIS Section and Previous Analysis

During preparation of the 1992 Final EIS, WSDOT staff consulted with the Washington Office (now Department) of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP) pursuant to WAC 197-11-440.6d.iv of the SEPA. The OAHP determined that if two previous cultural resources surveys conducted by Eastern Washington University within the study area (Robinson 1983; Robinson 1988) were adequate, then further archaeological survey work would not be needed to complete the EIS.

WSDOT also contacted the City of Redmond and the King County Cultural Resources Division to check for information about historic resources along the project corridor. Background information was gathered from the OAHP on the history and prehistory of the area. WSDOT consulted with the Suquamish and Muckleshoot Indian tribes to determine if important traditional use areas were located within the study area.

Research by Eastern Washington University revealed the presence of three prehistoric sites (45-KI-8, 45-KI-9, and 45-KI-10) located along the Sammamish River within two miles of the study area. Eastern Washington University also identified high-probability areas for prehistoric sites adjacent to the Sammamish River and Bear Creek. At that time, however, both watercourses had been severely altered through dredging and straightening; neither was in its original location, and many sites were believed to have been destroyed when these activities occurred. These areas were determined to be unlikely to contain intact prehistoric resources because of past land disturbance. The 1992 Final EIS also did not identify any historic sites within the project footprint; however, historic sites were identified in the immediate project vicinity in Marymoor Park and on Leary Way (the Justice William White residence).

The 1992 Final EIS concluded that constructing and operating the build alternatives (including the project) would not likely result in impacts on cultural resource sites. Consultations with the Suquamish and Muckleshoot Indian tribes indicated that no traditional Native American use areas would be affected by the project. The 1992 Final EIS did not identify any mitigation measures for cultural resources. It was recommended that if historic or prehistoric sites were encountered during construction, then work in that specific area would be stopped until the OAHP was contacted and the site evaluated by an archaeologist. It was further recommended that if the site discovery resulted in the finding of an National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible site, then mitigative measures conforming to the standards established in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) would be required (data recovery of archaeological sites and historic American Building Survey or Historic American Engineering Record documentation for buildings or structures).

Methodology

The cultural resources study determined an appropriate study area (also known as the Area of Potential Effect, or APE) to be the area immediately surrounding the project footprint up to a

one-half-mile radius (Figure 3.13-1). The cultural resources study team contacted local agencies and WSDOT consulted with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and affected Indian tribes to obtain information about existing archaeological resources and traditional cultural properties (TCPs). This information was used to characterize and assess the potential effects of the project. The collected information was used to describe baseline cultural resource conditions in the project vicinity and to identify the existing cultural resources in the APE.

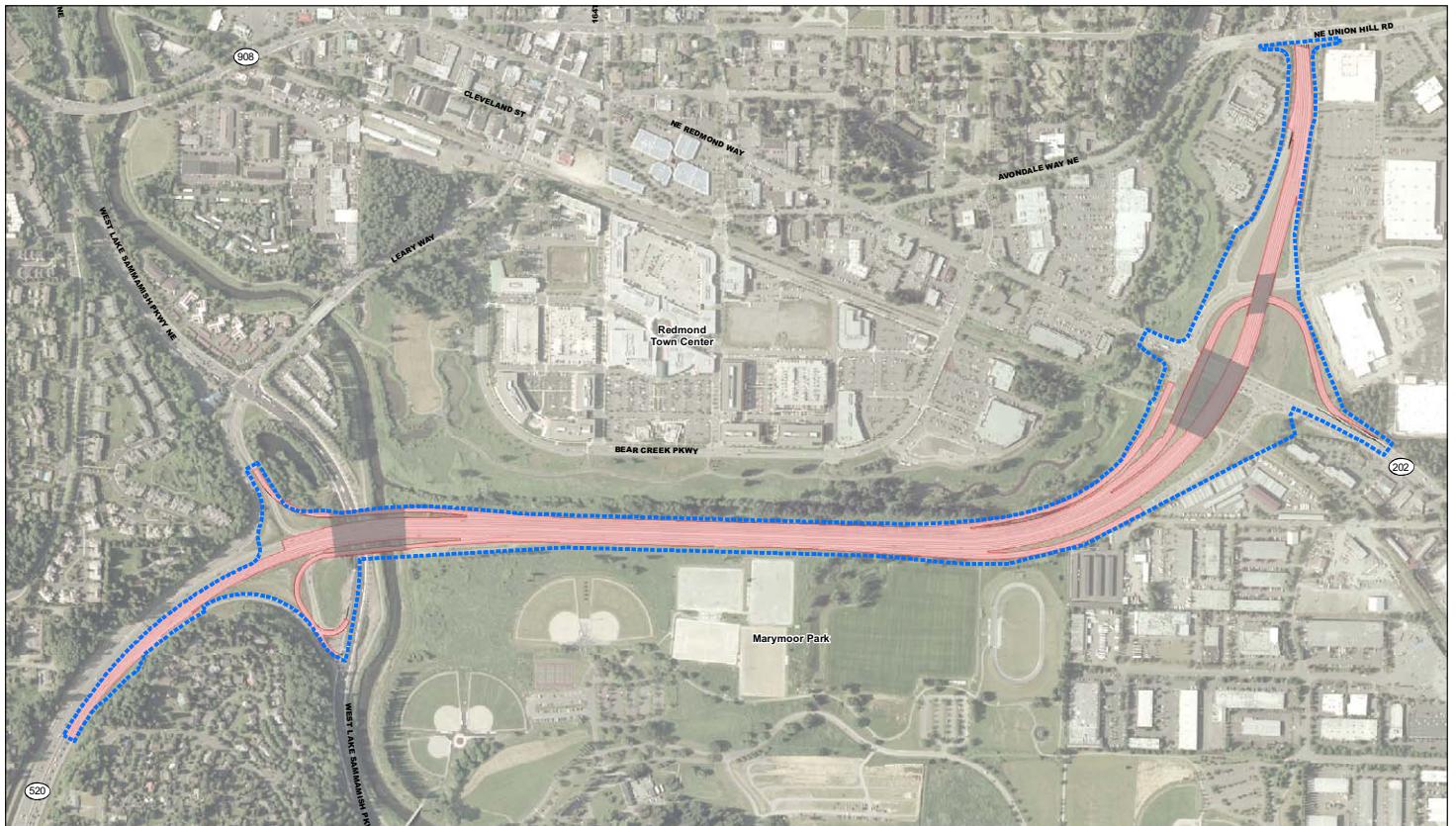
Coordination Efforts

Local agencies, the SHPO at the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP), and affected Indian tribes were asked to provide information about existing archaeological resources and TCPs. The information provided was used to characterize and assess the potential effects of the project. In April 2005, WSDOT initiated consultation with the DAHP and affected Indian tribes (the Snoqualmie, Tulalip, Yakama, Duwamish, and Muckleshoot tribes) in accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA, the Governor's Executive Order 05-05, and the Centennial Accord between the State of Washington and federally recognized Indian tribes. The Muckleshoot Tribe responded to WSDOT and requested a field survey and additional information. The cultural resources study team attempted follow-up consultation with the Snoqualmie, Tulalip, Yakama, Duwamish, and Muckleshoot tribes by letter in June 2005; none of those tribes responded. In April 2006, copies of the *Historic, Cultural, and Archaeological Resources Discipline Report* (CH2M HILL 2006) were sent to the DAHP and the above-mentioned tribes for review.

Affected Environment

Since 1992, the NHPA has undergone two revisions, and several changes to its implementing regulations (36 CFR 800) have been adopted. None of these changes, however, altered the fundamental regulatory authorities that require WSDOT to consider the effects of this project on historic properties, either on the federal or state level (e.g., SEPA review). Increased federal recognition of TCPs in the latest amendments to the NHPA and its implementing regulations are of little concern here because the tribes have not identified any potential TCPs in the study area.

Since 1992, Redmond Town Center has been developed on the property north of SR 520 that was formerly the Redmond golf course. Today, almost all vacant land in the Redmond Town Center has been developed with commercial buildings. Additionally, previous construction phases for the SR 520 widening project have been completed. Since 1992, there have been no substantive changes to the historic buildings in the study area. Developing and implementing the Redmond Town Center and completing the Stage One and Two improvements did not result in the discovery (and recordation) of archaeological sites (Figure 3.13-2). Since 1992, the archaeological high-probability area associated with Bear Creek identified in the previous study appears to have remained in the same (undeveloped) condition.



■ APE ■ Project Footprint (Edge of Pavement)
■ Bridge

0 500 1,000
Approximate scale in feet

FIGURE 3.13-1
Area of Potential Effect
SR520/West Lake Sammamish Parkway to SR 202

File Path: \\Smbra\PROJ\WSDOT\184764\SR520\GIS\Layouts\Cultural\APE_final.mxd

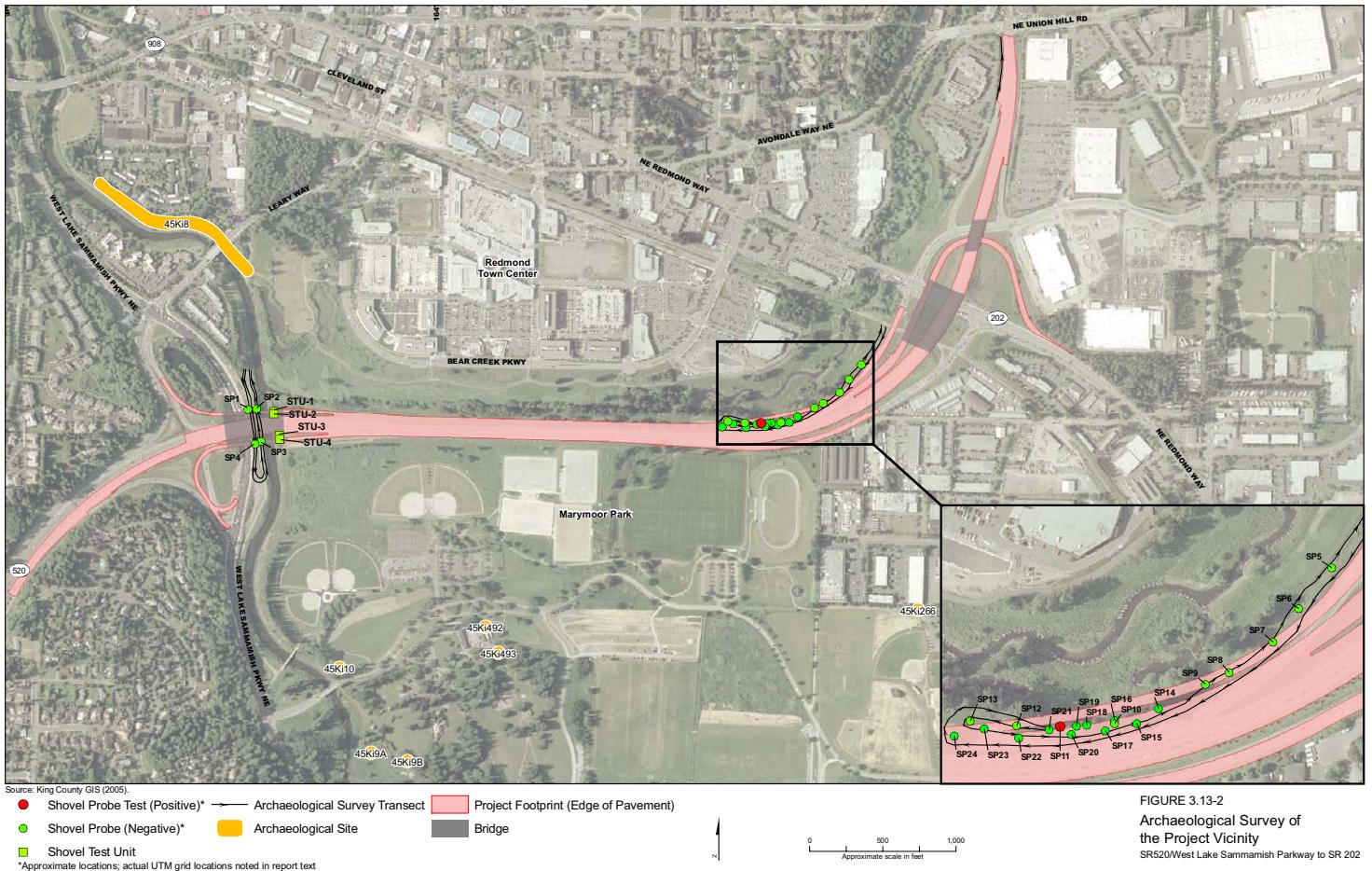


FIGURE 3.13-2
Archaeological Survey of
the Project Vicinity
SR520/West Lake Sammamish Parkway to SR 202

Impacts

The project design would widen SR 520 to the north, bringing earth-moving construction activities closer to Bear Creek into an area described as having a high probability for disturbing subsurface cultural materials. As a result of subsurface testing conducted in 2005 and 2006 to check for the presence or absence of archaeological resources, WSDOT has determined that project impacts would not disturb any archaeological resources. Potential impacts to historic resources would also not occur during project construction or operation. Construction phasing would have no effect on the potential impacts of the project's improvements on archaeological resources.

Mitigation Measures

Because project subsurface sampling did not yield archaeological resources, and because the analysts concluded that the project would not likely affect any buried materials, mitigation would not be warranted for this project. In the unlikely event that archaeological resources are detected during construction, then work would be halted and WSDOT contacted immediately. WSDOT would then coordinate with the affected tribes and the DAHP to develop a plan to proceed with the project.